

## CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A nail softener composition for correcting a deformed nail or modifying the structure of a nail modification, containing at least one reducing agent selected from the group consisting of cysteine, thioglycolic acid and thioglycolate, wherein the composition is in the form of a paste, cream, or gel.
2. (Original) The nail softener as defined in claim 1, wherein said reducing agent is thioglycolate.
3. (Original) The nail softener as defined in claim 2, wherein said reducing agent is ammonium thioglycolate.
4. (Original) The nail softener as defined in claim 1, wherein said reducing agent is subjected to a deodorizing treatment.

5-16 (withdrawn)

17. (New) The nail softener as defined in claim 1, wherein said composition further comprises carotene, keratin, protein, or calcium.
18. (New) The nail softener as defined in claim 1, wherein said composition further comprises an antifungal or antimycosis drug.
19. (New) The nail softener as defined in claim 1, wherein said reducing agent is present in an amount of from 2 to 50 wt. %, based upon the total weight of the composition.

20. (New) A nail softener composition for correcting a deformed nail or modifying the structure of a nail modification, the composition comprising at least one reducing agent selected from the group consisting of cysteine, thioglycolic acid and thioglycolate; and further comprising carotene, keratin, protein, or calcium, wherein the composition is in the form of a paste, cream, or gel.

21. (New) The nail softener as defined in claim 20, wherein said reducing agent is thioglycolate.

22. (New) The nail softener as defined in claim 20, wherein said reducing agent is ammonium thioglycolate.

23. (New) The nail softener as defined in claim 20, wherein said reducing agent is subjected to a deodorizing treatment.

24. (New) The nail softener as defined in claim 20, wherein said composition further comprises an antifungal or antimycosis drug.

25. (New) The nail softener as defined in claim 20, wherein said reducing agent is present in an amount of from 2 to 50 wt. %, based upon the total weight of the composition.

26. (New) A nail softener composition for correcting a deformed nail or modifying the structure of a nail modification, prepared by adding an emulsifying agent substance to a reducing agent selected from the group consisting of cysteine, thioglycolic acid and thioglycolate, to form a cream, paste, or gel.

27. (New) The nail softener as defined in claim 26, wherein said reducing agent is thioglycolate.

28. (New) The nail softener as defined in claim 26, wherein said reducing agent is ammonium thioglycolate.

29. (New) The nail softener as defined in claim 26, wherein said reducing agent is subjected to a deodorizing treatment.

30. (New) The nail softener as defined in claim 26, wherein said composition further comprises carotene, keratin, protein, or calcium.

31. (New) The nail softener as defined in claim 26, wherein said composition further comprises an antifungal or antimycosis drug.

32. (New) The nail softener as defined in claim 26, wherein said reducing agent is present in an amount of from 2 to 50 wt. %, based upon the total weight of the composition